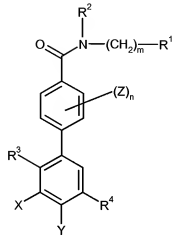
Amendments to the claims

1. (Currently amended) A compound of formula (I):



(I)

wherein

R^1 is selected from hydrogen, C_{1-6}alkyl optionally substituted by up to three groups independently selected from C_{1-6}alkoxy, halogen and hydroxy, C_{2-6}alkenyl, C_{3-7}cycloalkyl optionally substituted by one or more C_{1-6}alkyl groups, phenyl optionally substituted by up to three groups independently selected from R^5 and R^6[[, and]] or heteroaryl optionally substituted by up to three groups independently selected from R^5 and R^6,

R^2 is selected from hydrogen, C_{1-6}alkyl [[and]] or -$(CH_2)_p$-C_{3-7}cycloalkyl optionally substituted by one or more C_{1-6}alkyl groups,

or $(CH_2)_m R^1$ and R^2, together with the nitrogen atom to which they are bound, form a four- to six-membered heterocyclic ring optionally substituted by up to three C_{1-6}alkyl groups;

R^3 is chloro or methyl;

R^4 is the group -NH-CO-R^7 or -CO-NH-$(CH_2)_p$-R^8;

R^5 is selected from C_{1-6}alkyl, C_{1-6}alkoxy, -$(CH_2)_p$-C_{3-7}cycloalkyl optionally substituted by one or more C_{1-6}alkyl groups, -$CONR^9R^{10}$, -$NHCOR^{10}$,

$-SO_2NHR^9$, $-(CH_2)_qNHSO_2R^{10}$, halogen, CN, OH, $-(CH_2)_qNR^{11}R^{12}$ [[, and]] or trifluoromethyl;

R^6 is selected from C_{1-6}alkyl, C_{1-6}alkoxy, halogen, trifluoromethyl [[and]] or $-(CH_2)_qNR^{11}R^{12}$;

R^7 is selected from hydrogen, C_{1-6}alkyl, $-(CH_2)_p$-C_{3-7}cycloalkyl optionally substituted by one or more C_{1-6}alkyl groups, trifluoromethyl, $-(CH_2)_r$heteroaryl optionally substituted by R^{13} and/or R^{14}[[, and]] or $-(CH_2)_r$phenyl optionally substituted by R^{13} and/or R^{14};

R^8 is selected from hydrogen, C_{1-6}alkyl, C_{3-7}cycloalkyl optionally substituted by one or more C_{1-6}alkyl groups, $CONHR^9$, phenyl optionally substituted by R^{13} and/or R^{14} [[, and]] or heteroaryl optionally substituted by R^{13} and/or R^{14};

R^9 and R^{10} are each independently selected from hydrogen [[and]] or C_{1-6}alkyl, or

R^9 and R^{10}, together with the nitrogen atom to which they are bound, form a five- to six-membered heterocyclic ring optionally containing one additional heteroatom selected from oxygen, sulfur and N-R^{15}, wherein the ring is optionally substituted by up to two C_{1-6}alkyl groups;

R^{11} is selected from hydrogen, C_{1-6}alkyl [[and]] or $-(CH_2)_p$-C_{3-7}cycloalkyl optionally substituted by one or more C_{1-6}alkyl groups [[,]] ;

R^{12} is selected from hydrogen [[and]] or C_{1-6}alkyl, or

R^{11} and R^{12}, together with the nitrogen atom to which they are bound, form a five or six-membered heterocyclic ring optionally containing one additional heteroatom selected from oxygen, sulfur and N-R^{15};

R^{13} is selected from C_{1-6}alkyl, C_{1-6}alkoxy, $-(CH_2)_p$-C_{3-7}cycloalkyl optionally substituted by one or more C_{1-6}alkyl groups, $-CONR^9R^{10}$, $-NHCOR^{10}$, halogen, CN, $-(CH_2)_qNR^{11}R^{12}$, trifluoromethyl, phenyl optionally substituted by one or more R^{14} groups [[and]] or heteroaryl optionally substituted by one or more R^{14} groups;

R^{14} is selected from C_{1-6}alkyl, C_{1-6}alkoxy, halogen, trifluoromethyl [[and]] or $-NR^{11}R^{12}$;

R^{15} is selected from hydrogen [[and]] or methyl;

X and Y are each independently selected from hydrogen, methyl [[and]] or halogen;

Z is selected from $-(CH_2)_sOR^{16}$, $-(CH_2)_sNR^{16}R^{17}$, $-(CH_2)_sCH_2CH_2R^{16}$, $-(CH_2)_sCOOR^{16}$, $-(CH_2)_sCONR^{16}R^{17}$, [[$-(CH_2)_sNHCOR^{16}$]], $-(CH_2)_sNHCONR^{16}R^{17}$, $-(CH_2)_sSO_2R^{16}$, $-(CH_2)_sSO_2NR^{16}R^{17}$ [[and]] or $-(CH_2)_sNHSO_2R^{16}$;

R^{16} is selected from hydrogen, C_{1-6}alkyl optionally substituted by up to two hydroxy groups, $-(CH_2)_tOR^{18}$, $-(CH_2)_tNR^{18}R^{19}$, $-(CH_2)_tNHSO_2R^{18}$, $-(CH_2)_tCONR^{18}R^{19}$, $-(CH_2)_tCOOR^{18}$, $-(CH_2)_t$heteroaryl optionally substituted by up to two groups independently selected from halogen, C_{1-6}alkyl [[and]] or oxo, [[and]] or $-(CH_2)_t$phenyl optionally substituted by up to two groups independently selected from halogen, C_{1-6}alkyl [[and]] or C_{1-6}alkoxy,

R^{17} is selected from hydrogen [[and]] or C_{1-6}alkyl, or

R^{16} and R^{17}, together with the nitrogen atom to which they are bound, form a five- to six-membered heterocyclic ring optionally containing one additional heteroatom selected from oxygen, sulfur and N-R^{15}, wherein the ring is optionally substituted by up to two groups independently selected from oxo, halogen [[and]] or C_{1-6}alkyl;

R^{18} and R^{19} are each independently selected from hydrogen [[and]] or C_{1-6}alkyl optionally [[substituted]] substituted by up to two hydroxy groups, or

R^{18} and R^{19}, together with the nitrogen atom to which they are bound, form a five- to six-membered heterocyclic ring optionally containing one additional heteroatom selected from oxygen, sulfur and N-R^{15}, wherein the ring is optionally substituted by up to two groups independently selected from oxo, halogen [[and]] or C_{1-6}alkyl;

m is selected from 0, 1, 2, 3 [[and]] or 4, wherein each carbon atom of the resulting carbon chain may be optionally substituted with up to two groups independently selected from C_{1-6}alkyl [[and]] or halogen;

n is 1;

p is selected from 0, 1 [[and]] or 2;

q is selected from 0, 1, 2 [[and]] or 3;

r is selected from 0 [[and]] or 1;

s is selected from 0, 1, 2, 3 and 4; and

t is selected from 1, 2, 3[[and]] or 4;

or a pharmaceutically acceptable [[derivative]] salt thereof.

2. (currently amended) A compound according to claim 1 wherein R^1 is selected from C_{1-6}alkyl, C_{3-7}cycloalkyl **[[**and**]]** or phenyl optionally substituted by up to three groups selected from R^5 and R^6.

3. (previously presented) A compound according to claim 1 wherein R^1 is C_{3-6}cycloalkyl.

4. (previously presented) A compound according to claim 1 wherein R^2 is hydrogen.

5. (previously presented) A compound according to claim 1 wherein m is 0 or 1.

6. (previously presented) A compound according to claim 1 wherein m is 1.

7. (previously presented) A compound according to claim 1 wherein R^8 is C_{3-6}cycloalkyl.

8. (Currently amended) A compound according to claim 1 wherein Z is selected from $-(CH_2)_sOR^{16}$, $-(CH_2)_sNR^{16}R^{17}$, **[[** $-(CH_2)_sNHCOR^{16}$,**]]** $-(CH_2)_sNHCONR^{16}R^{17}$ and $-(CH_2)_sNHSO_2R^{16}$.

9. (Currently amended) A compound according to claim 1 ~~substantially as hereinbefore defined with reference to any one of Examples 1 to 48,~~

N^3-cyclopropyl-5-fluoro-2'-hydroxy-6-methyl-N^4-[(4-methylphenyl)methyl]-3,4'-biphenyldicarboxamide;

N^3-cyclopropyl-N^4-(2,2-dimethylpropyl)-5-fluoro-6-methyl-2'-{[(methyloxy)methyl]oxy}-3,4'-biphenyldicarboxamide;

N^3-cyclopropyl-5-fluoro-6-methyl-2'-{[(methyloxy)methyl]oxy}-N^4-(2-methylpropyl)-3,4'-biphenyldicarboxamide;

N^3-cyclopropyl-N^4-(cyclopropylmethyl)-5-fluoro-6-methyl-2'-{[(methyloxy)methyl]oxy}-3,4'-biphenyldicarboxamide;

N^3-cyclopropyl-5-fluoro-6-methyl-2'-{[(methyloxy)methyl]oxy}-$N^{4'}$-{[4-(methyloxy)phenyl]methyl}-3,4'-biphenyldicarboxamide;

N^3-cyclopropyl-5-fluoro-6-methyl-2'-{[(methyloxy)methyl]oxy}-$N^{4'}$-[(1*R*)-1,2,2-trimethylpropyl]-3,4'-biphenyldicarboxamide;

N^3-cyclopropyl-$N^{4'}$-[(1*R*)-1,2-dimethylpropyl]-5-fluoro-6-methyl-2'-{[(methyloxy)methyl]oxy}-3,4'-biphenyldicarboxamide;

N^3-cyclopropyl-$N^{4'}$-(2,2-dimethylpropyl)-5-fluoro-2'-hydroxy-6-methyl-3,4'-biphenyldicarboxamide;

N^3-cyclopropyl-5-fluoro-2'-hydroxy-6-methyl-$N^{4'}$-(2-methylpropyl)-3,4'-biphenyldicarboxamide;

N^3-cyclopropyl-$N^{4'}$-(cyclopropylmethyl)-5-fluoro-2'-hydroxy-6-methyl-3,4'-biphenyldicarboxamide;

N^3-cyclopropyl-5-fluoro-2'-hydroxy-6-methyl-$N^{4'}$-{[4-(methyloxy)phenyl]methyl}-3,4'-biphenyldicarboxamide;

N^3-cyclopropyl-5-fluoro-2'-hydroxy-6-methyl-$N^{4'}$-[(1*R*)-1,2,2-trimethylpropyl]-3,4'-biphenyldicarboxamide;

N^3-cyclopropyl-$N^{4'}$-[(1*R*)-1,2-dimethylpropyl]-5-fluoro-2'-hydroxy-6-methyl-3,4'-biphenyldicarboxamide;

N^3-cyclopropyl-$N^{4'}$-(2,2-dimethylpropyl)-5-fluoro-6-methyl-2'-(methyloxy)-3,4'-biphenyldicarboxamide;

N^3-cyclopropyl-5-fluoro-6-methyl-2'-(methyloxy)-$N^{4'}$-(2-methylpropyl)-3,4'-biphenyldicarboxamide;

N^3-cyclopropyl-$N^{4'}$-(cyclopropylmethyl)-5-fluoro-6-methyl-2'-(methyloxy)-3,4'-biphenyldicarboxamide;

N^3-cyclopropyl-5-fluoro-6-methyl-2'-(methyloxy)-$N^{4'}$-{[4-(methyloxy)phenyl]methyl}-3,4'-biphenyldicarboxamide;

N^3-cyclopropyl-5-fluoro-6-methyl-2'-(methyloxy)-$N^{4'}$-[(1*R*)-1,2,2-trimethylpropyl]-3,4'-biphenyldicarboxamide;

N^3-cyclopropyl-$N^{4'}$-[(1*R*)-1,2-dimethylpropyl]-5-fluoro-6-methyl-2'-(methyloxy)-3,4'-biphenyldicarboxamide;

N^3-cyclopropyl-$N^{4'}$-(2,2-dimethylpropyl)-5-fluoro-6-methyl-2'-(propyloxy)-3,4'-biphenyldicarboxamide;

N^3-cyclopropyl-2'-{[3-(dimethylamino)propyl]oxy}-$N^{4'}$-(2,2-dimethylpropyl)-5-fluoro-6-methyl-3,4'-biphenyldicarboxamide;

N^3-cyclopropyl-$N^{4'}$-(2,2-dimethylpropyl)-5-fluoro-6-methyl-2'-({2-[(methylsulfonyl)amino]ethyl}oxy)-3,4'-biphenyldicarboxamide;

4-[(5'-[(cyclopropylamino)carbonyl]-4-{[(2,2-dimethylpropyl)amino]carbonyl}-3'-fluoro-2'-methyl-2-biphenylyl)oxy]butanoic acid;

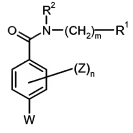
2'-[(4-amino-4-oxobutyl)oxy]-N^3-cyclopropyl-$N^{4'}$-(2,2-dimethylpropyl)-5-fluoro-6-methyl-3,4'-biphenyldicarboxamide;

N^3-cyclopropyl-$N^{4'}$-(2,2-dimethylpropyl)-5-fluoro-6-methyl-2'-{[4-(methylamino)-4-oxobutyl]oxy}-3,4'-biphenyldicarboxamide;

N^3-cyclopropyl-N^4-(2,2-dimethylpropyl)-5-fluoro-2'-[(4-hydroxybutyl)oxyl-6-methyl-3,4'-biphenyldicarboxamide;
N^3-cyclopropyl-N^4-(2,2-dimethylpropyl)-5-fluoro-6-methyl-2'-{[3-(1,3,4-oxadiazol-2-yl)propyl]oxy}-3,4'-biphenyldicarboxamide; and
N^3-cyclopropyl-N^4-(2,2-dimethylpropyl)-5-fluoro-2'-(hydroxymethyl)-6-methyl-3,4'-biphenyldicarboxamide;
or a pharmaceutically acceptable [[derivative]] salt thereof.

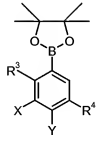
10. (previously presented) A process for preparing a compound according to claim 1, or a pharmaceutically acceptable [[derivative]] salt thereof, which comprises:

(a) reacting a compound of (II)



(II)

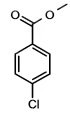
in which R^1, R^2, Z, m and n are as defined in claim 1 and W is halogen,
with a compound of formula (III)



(III)

in which R^3, R^4, X and Y are as defined in claim 1,
in the presence of a catalyst, or

(b) reacting a compound of formula (VIII)



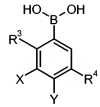
(VIII)

with a compound of formula (III) as hereinbefore defined and then reacting the acid thus formed with an amine of formula (V)

(V)

in which R^1, R^2 and m are as defined in claim 1,
under amide forming conditions

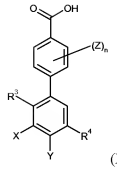
(c) reacting a compound of formula (II) as hereinbefore defined with a compound of formula (IX)



(IX)

in which R^3, R^4, X and Y are as defined in claim 1,
in the presence of a catalyst,

(d) reacting a compound of formula (X)

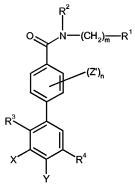


(X)

in which R^3, R^4, X, Y, Z and n are as defined in claim 1,
with an amine compound of formula (V) as defined above,
under amide forming conditions,

~~(e)~~ (c) final stage modification of one compound of formula (I) into another compound of formula (I), or

(f) conversion of a compound of formula (XII)



(XII)

in which Z' is a group convertible to Z as defined in claim 1.

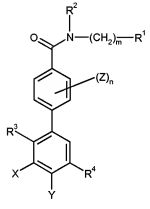
11. (currently amended) A pharmaceutical composition comprising at least one compound according to claim 1, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt [[derivative]] thereof, in association with one or more pharmaceutically acceptable excipients, diluents and/or carriers.

12. (currently amended) A method for treating inflammation in a human in need thereof ~~a condition or disease state mediated by p38 kinase activity or mediated by~~

~~cytokines produced by the activity of p38 kinase~~ comprising administering to said human an effective amount of ~~a patient in need thereof~~ a compound according to claim 1, or a pharmaceutically acceptable [[derivative]] salt thereof.

13. - 14. (cancelled)

15. (currently amended) A compound of formula (IA):



(IA)

wherein

R^1 is selected from hydrogen, C_{1-6}alkyl optionally substituted by up to three groups independently selected from C_{1-6}alkoxy, halogen [[and]] or hydroxy, C_{2-6}alkenyl, C_{3-7}cycloalkyl optionally substituted by one or more C_{1-6}alkyl groups, phenyl optionally substituted by up to three groups independently selected from R^5 and R^6, [[and]] or heteroaryl optionally substituted by up to three groups independently selected from R^5 and R^6,

R^2 is selected from hydrogen, C_{1-6}alkyl [[and]] or $-(CH_2)_p-C_{3-7}$cycloalkyl optionally substituted by one or more C_{1-6}alkyl groups,

or $(CH_2)_mR^1$ and R^2, together with the nitrogen atom to which they are bound, form a four- to six-membered heterocyclic ring optionally substituted by up to three C_{1-6}alkyl groups;

R^3 is chloro or methyl;

R^4 is the group $-NH-CO-R^7$ or $-CO-NH-(CH_2)_p-R^8$;

R^5 is selected from C_{1-6}alkyl, C_{1-6}alkoxy, $-(CH_2)_p-C_{3-7}$cycloalkyl optionally substituted by one or more C_{1-6}alkyl groups, $-CONR^9R^{10}$, $-NHCOR^{10}$, $-SO_2NHR^9$, $-(CH_2)_qNHSO_2R^{10}$, halogen, CN, OH, $-(CH_2)_qNR^{11}R^{12}$ [[, and]] or trifluoromethyl;

R^6 is selected from C_{1-6}alkyl, C_{1-6}alkoxy, halogen, trifluoromethyl [[and]] or $-(CH_2)_qNR^{11}R^{12}$;

R^7 is selected from hydrogen, C_{1-6}alkyl, $-(CH_2)_p$-C_{3-7}cycloalkyl optionally substituted by one or more C_{1-6}alkyl groups, trifluoromethyl, $-(CH_2)_r$heteroaryl optionally substituted by R^{13} and/or R^{14} [[, and]] or $-(CH_2)_r$phenyl optionally substituted by R^{13} and/or R^{14};

R^8 is selected from hydrogen, C_{1-6}alkyl, C_{3-7}cycloalkyl optionally substituted by one or more C_{1-6}alkyl groups, $CONHR^9$, phenyl optionally substituted by R^{13} and/or R^{14}[[, and]] or heteroaryl optionally substituted by R^{13} and/or R^{14};

R^9 and R^{10} are each independently selected from hydrogen [[and]] or C_{1-6}alkyl, or

R^9 and R^{10}, together with the nitrogen atom to which they are bound, form a five- to six-membered heterocyclic ring optionally containing one additional heteroatom selected from oxygen, sulfur and N-R^{15}, wherein the ring is optionally substituted by up to two C_{1-6}alkyl groups;

R^{11} is selected from hydrogen, C_{1-6}alkyl [[and]] or $-(CH_2)_p$-C_{3-7}cycloalkyl optionally substituted by one or more C_{1-6}alkyl groups,

R^{12} is selected from hydrogen [[and]] or C_{1-6}alkyl, or

R^{11} and R^{12}, together with the nitrogen atom to which they are bound, form a five or six-membered heterocyclic ring optionally containing one additional heteroatom selected from oxygen, sulfur and N-R^{15};

R^{13} is selected from C_{1-6}alkyl, C_{1-6}alkoxy, $-(CH_2)_p$-C_{3-7}cycloalkyl optionally substituted by one or more C_{1-6}alkyl groups, $-CONR^9R^{10}$, $-NHCOR^{10}$, halogen, CN, $-(CH_2)_qNR^{11}R^{12}$, trifluoromethyl, phenyl optionally substituted by one or more R^{14} groups [[and]] or heteroaryl optionally substituted by one or more R^{14} groups;

R^{14} is selected from C_{1-6}alkyl, C_{1-6}alkoxy, halogen, trifluoromethyl [[and]] or $-NR^{11}R^{12}$;

R^{15} is selected from hydrogen [[and]] or methyl;

X and Y are each independently selected from hydrogen, methyl [[and]] or halogen;

Z is selected from $-(CH_2)_sOR^{16}$, $-(CH_2)_sNR^{16}R^{17}$, $-(CH_2)_sCH_2CH_2R^{16}$, $-(CH_2)_sCOOR^{16}$, $-(CH_2)_sCONR^{16}R^{17}$, $-(CH_2)_sNHCOR^{16}$,

$-(CH_2)_sNHCONR^{16}R^{17}$, $-(CH_2)_sSO_2R^{16}$, $-(CH_2)_sSO_2NR^{16}R^{17}$ [[and]] or $-(CH_2)_sNHSO_2R^{16}$;

R^{16} is selected from hydrogen, C_{1-6}alkyl, $-(CH_2)_tOR^{18}$, $-(CH_2)_tNR^{18}R^{19}$, $-(CH_2)_tCOOR^{18}$, $-(CH_2)_t$heteroaryl optionally substituted by up to two groups independently selected from halogen [[and]] or C_{1-6}alkyl, [[and]] or is a $-(CH_2)_t$phenyl optionally substituted by up to two groups independently selected from halogen, C_{1-6}alkyl [[and]] or C_{1-6}alkoxy,

R^{17} is selected from hydrogen [[and]] or C_{1-6}alkyl, or

R^{16} and R^{17}, together with the nitrogen atom to which they are bound, form a five- to six-membered heterocyclic ring optionally containing one additional heteroatom selected from oxygen, sulfur and N-R^{15}, wherein the ring is optionally substituted by up to two groups independently selected from oxo, halogen and C_{1-6}alkyl;

R^{18} and R^{19} are each independently selected from hydrogen [[and]] or C_{1-6}alkyl, or

R^{18} and R^{19}, together with the nitrogen atom to which they are bound, form a five- to six-membered heterocyclic ring optionally containing one additional heteroatom selected from oxygen, sulfur and N-R^{15}, wherein the ring is optionally substituted by up to two groups independently selected from oxo, halogen [[and]] or C_{1-6}alkyl;

m is selected from 0, 1, 2, 3 [[and]] or 4, wherein each carbon atom of the resulting carbon chain may be optionally substituted with up to two groups independently selected from C_{1-6}alkyl [[and]] or halogen;

n is 1;

p is selected from 0, 1 [[and]] or 2;

q is selected from 0, 1, 2 [[and]] or 3;

r is selected from 0 [[and]] or 1;

s is selected from 0, 1, 2, 3 [[and]] or 4; and

t is selected from 2, 3 [[and]] or 4;

or a pharmaceutically acceptable [[derivative]] salt thereof.

16. (new) A pharmaceutical composition comprising a compound according to claim 15, or a pharmaceutically salt thereof, in association with one or more pharmaceutically acceptable excipients, diluents and/or carriers.

17. (new) The compound according to claim 1 which is: N^3-Cyclopropyl-N^4-(2,2-dimethylpropyl)-5-fluoro-2'-(hydroxymethyl)-6-methyl-3,4'-biphenyldicarboxamide, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.